

Rep. Deb Wallace

ACTION

News from the Capitol

State Legislative Session 2007 Wrap-up

See inside for a recap
of the 2007 session

- *Helping people find affordable health care*
- *Providing our children a world-class education*
- *Keeping our families and community safe*
- *And more...*

*State
Representative
Deb
Wallace*



17th Legislative District

How to reach me

I'm back in my Vancouver office. Please contact me to share the issues and concerns important to you and your family. I am able to represent you more effectively when you provide me with your thoughts and opinions.

Vancouver Office:

108 SE 124th Ave, Vancouver
(360) 260-6110
Wallace.Deb@leg.wa.gov

Toll-free Legislative Hotline:

800.562.6000

TTY for hearing impaired:

800.635-9993

Website:

www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/wallace

★ ★ Save the Date ★ ★

Town Hall

Saturday, June 16 – 11 a.m.

**Firstenburg Community Center
700 NE 136th Avenue, Vancouver**

Representative Deb Wallace • 17th District

A note from Rep. Wallace

Dear Neighbors,

It was a great honor to represent you in Olympia during my fifth year as your legislator. It is a responsibility that I take seriously. I hold town halls and community action forums. I use technology to provide additional avenues for you to provide me with your opinions on issues. I also do my homework to learn about a broad array of topics important to our district.

During this 105 day legislative session I received over a thousand emails and hundreds of phone calls from you about issues that affect your life. I heard from special education teachers concerned about using the WASL to assess kids with severe disabilities; seniors worried about being able to pay for their prescriptions; students planning for college; parents wanting a quality education for their child; identity theft victims asking for more protection; nurses and care givers seeking more resources to care for our elderly and disabled; working families concerned about traffic and growth; and many more issues. When I come to Olympia, I remember that I'm working for you.

On a final note, please join me for a town hall on June 16 where I will let you know about changes that have occurred. You can share your priorities with me and I will also let you know the topics I plan to work on to prepare for the 2008 legislative session.

Deb Wallace

2007 Session Scorecard

Bills that passed the House

We passed hundreds of bills this session, but here's just a small sample of those you might be most interested in.

Cracking down on theft

A new tool to prevent identity theft

New legislation allows you to put a 'freeze' on your credit at any time, essentially blocking all access to your credit information so no one can access your information. If you do need to let someone access your records, the bill includes an easy 'thaw' mechanism to allow temporary, restricted access to your credit files. For more information on this and other consumer protection issues, visit www.atg.wa.gov.



Tougher penalties for auto theft

A car is stolen every 11 minutes in Washington. This year we passed a bill to toughen the penalties for car theft, crack down on the criminal auto theft rings that operate statewide, and set up a statewide auto-theft authority to go after these theft gangs.

Helping all families get affordable health care

Paying for Rx just got easier

A new Prescription Drug Discount Card is now available to any Washington resident regardless of age or income. This free card allows you to save up to 60% on generic drugs and 20% on brand-name drugs at hundreds of participating pharmacies around the state. You can enroll on-line at www.rx.wa.gov or by calling 1-800-913-4146.



Goal: Cover all kids by 2010

We passed legislation to allow all families to purchase coverage for their children regardless of income level. Coverage is either free or on a sliding scale based on a family's annual income. There are 72,600 children in Washington without health care coverage and our goal is to cover every child by 2010.

Visit <http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/Eligibility/HealthyKidsNow.html> or call 1-877-KidsNow (1-877-543-7669) for more information.

Legislative ACTION

Providing our children a world-class education **WASL**

More than 40 percent of students in the graduating class of 2008 are failing the math portion of the WASL. Most lawmakers agree this points to a system failure rather than a student failure, so we passed legislation to postpone the math and science WASL requirement until the class of 2013 if students take additional math courses and meet other graduation requirements.

All-day kindergarten

To help our children get the early boost they need, we're going to start phasing in all-day kindergarten starting with the lowest-income schools.

Making college more affordable

For most families and students, the cost of a college education is an enormous barrier. Several new scholarship, grant and loan programs will allow everyone the chance to go to college. Some examples:

The GET Ready for Math and Science program will provide scholarships to high-achieving, low- and middle-income students who major in a math, science or related field

and commit to working for at least three years in Washington in that same field.



Expansion of the state's Opportunity Grants will provide financial

aid and support to low-income adults so they can enroll in workforce programs such as allied health, construction, welding, and manufacturing.

Resident families of fallen veterans and National Guard members will soon be eligible for tuition waivers at Washington's public colleges.

Numerous other opportunities are also available. For more information, contact the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board at www.hecb.wa.gov/Paying/ or 360-753-7800.

Lowering the cost of textbooks

Since 1986, textbook prices have nearly tripled. To help ease this burden, we passed legislation to help lower the costs of books at affiliated bookstores of the state's colleges.

Creating jobs in Clark County **WSU-Vancouver Research & Innovation Center**

We're giving world-class researchers a home at Washington State University-Vancouver. A new Washington Center for Semiconductor Research and Innovation will put Southwest Washington at the forefront of semiconductor materials development and create good job opportunities on our side of the Columbia River.



Breaking our dependence on foreign oil



Keeping our air clean and our economy strong

Energy freedom is not only fundamental for our nation's security, it's an incredible economic and environmental opportunity for Washington to be a competitive leader in the clean fuel industry. We passed legislation to identify and encourage opportunities for creating alternative fuels, and set a goal for all our state's public agencies to use 100 percent biofuels by 2015.

Deb responds to student's questions about expanding four-year college opportunities in Clark County.

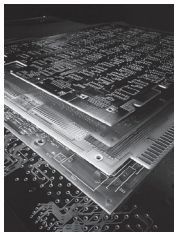


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Finding new ways of reaching out *Using 21st century technology to reach out*

One of the reasons I am successful as a legislator is because you take the time to let me know your opinion on issues. That's why I'm always looking for new ways to make it easier for you to reach me.

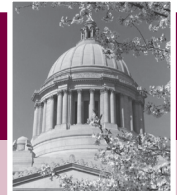
This year I began using two new ways to reach out to our district.



I held the first "virtual town hall" in the State! From Olympia, I led a three-way town hall that focused on higher education issues with students and faculty from WSU-Vancouver and Clark College. It was a fun and valuable way to see and talk with people from both campuses via live videoconferencing during the legislative session.

I have also begun to use a free online survey tool as a quick, easy way for you to send in your opinions on a variety of issues. If you are interested in checking this out, visit my website at www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/wallace. I'd love to hear from you!

Stay in touch...



Click – You can find bill information, listen to my podcasts, watch my legislative updates, find information on local agencies and organizations, and more.

www.leg.wa.gov/members/wallace

Call – Vancouver office: 360.260.6110;
Toll-free Hotline: 800.562.6000

Write – Wallace.Deb@leg.wa.gov; Washington State House of Representatives, 401 JLOB, PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Visit – Please feel free to drop into our Vancouver office at 108 SE 124th Ave.

Mark Your Calendar!

Town Hall
Saturday, June 16
11 a.m.
Firstenburg Community
Center
700 NE 136th Avenue,
Vancouver

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PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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